



Alhambra declaration on Open Access

Gathered in Granada on 13th and 14th May 2010, a representative group of Open Access' stakeholders (such as editors, librarians, funding agencies, university rectors and authors) from the South European countries (representing Spain, Portugal, France, Italy, Greece and Turkey) declare that:

- we recognize the great potentialities of Open Access for increasing the accessibility and visibility of the scientific production of Southern European countries, whose main languages are different from English;
- we are aware that the feasibility of Open Access is strongly related to the progressive evolution towards a new paradigm of scholarly and scientific communication;
- we consider that there exist difficulties for the development of Open Access in a moment of transition from the print era to the digital world.

1 Recommendations for policies for the development of OA in Southern Europe

We recommend:

1. implementing policies for fostering Open Access to scientific information;
2. enhancing advocacy initiatives to promote Open Access among researchers, policy makers, etc.;
3. building sustainable alternative business models for publishing;
4. assuring quality of Open Access publications;
5. fostering repositories.

We are committed to:

- exploring new forms of coordination and networking between European Open Access stakeholders;
- making a sustained effort to implement the attached action plan to develop Open Access in Southern European countries.

1.1 Implementing policies for fostering Open Access to scientific information

We recommend:

- institutional policies from research and academic institutions:
 - mandatory depositing in OA repositories;
 - supporting publication in OA journals and facilitating the transition to OA journals;

- establishing rewards and incentives for compliance with OA policies;
 - considering repository-deposited material for evaluation processes and research assessment.
- Institutional policies from research funders:
 - mandatory depositing in Open Access repositories;
 - reimbursing authors for publication fees, if necessary.
- National policies from governments:
 - establishing and developing Open Access initiatives, projects and infrastructures that foster coordination and cooperation.
- SELL and library consortia:
 - negotiating, lobbying and facilitating the establishment of new research output dissemination rights that foster Open Access.

1.2 Enhancing advocacy initiatives to promote Open Access

Being aware that Open Access is not only a concern of librarians, we recommend, apart from the traditional advocacy tools that have so far appeared to be successful:

- advocacy by facts and evidence of the benefits, mainly aimed at researchers and focusing on visibility, technology and usage, among other issues;

- targeted advocacy for specific stakeholders by creating a brand focusing on the message that Open Access is the main road to future sustainable science, and as a means for attracting other stakeholders besides librarians.

1.3 Building sustainable alternative business models for publishing

We recommend:

- launching a survey on current business models to document practices and economies in scholarly publishing in order to support future planning and actions.

1.4 Assuring quality of Open Access journals and repositories

We recommend:

- Journals:
 - guaranteeing the quality of Open Access journals' content through peer review procedures (as in any other scholarly journal) and guaranteeing the editorial quality through compliance with international guidelines and standards (taking into account different disciplines);
 - eliminating embargo policies.
- Repositories:
 - advancing in repository validation and certification;
 - advancing in the definition of clear policies (copyright, preservation, work-flows, what is deposited and by whom);
 - improving interoperability.

1.5 Fostering repositories

We recommend:

- promoting long term preservation strategies, policies and programs based on a common approach
- adopting guidelines with references to interoperability standards among repositories and other research and e-science management systems. This guidelines should cover aspects such as data and object exchange, advanced searchability options, integration with other e-science systems, and persistent author and document identifiers;
- progressing towards end-user-friendly repositories with new and value added services such as automatic ingestion and dissemination of content, metrics and statistics.

2 Action plan to develop Open Access in Southern Europe

We are committed to implementing this action plan:

- Diffusion
 - disseminating the “Alhambra Declaration”;
 - publishing the national reports in a single document with recommendations;
 - translation of the “Alhambra declaration” and the seminar docu.
- Task forces and national plans

- creating national task forces for Open Access (based on seminar national delegations and including representatives of all the agents)
 - international coordination of the national task forces in harmony with European related projects;
 - creating national plans and road maps for the next three years.
- Specific actions
 - identifying scientific journals at national level and supporting them in the process (inclusion in DOAJ, funding, and delegating first monitoring steps at the national level);
 - building a website to house our documents and outcomes, such as mandates, recommendations, best practices and incentives);
 - following best practices in the repositories;
 - working towards obtaining the signature of national authorities.

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14th May version



Original version: <http://oaseminar.fecyt.es/Publico/AlhambraDeclaration/index.aspx>

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ABSTRACT: Issued in 2009, the Alhambra declaration aims at promoting common policies for Open Access in the South of Europe.

KEYWORDS: Open Access policies; Southern Europe.

